

On the death of King George VI at Sandringham on 6 *February* 1952, a new era began when his elder daughter Elizabeth succeeded to the throne. However, it was to be another 10 months before the first stamps of the young Queen (the 1½d and 2½d values of the 'Wilding' issue) were introduced on 5th December 1952. Although new values were issued on a progressive basis, almost three years would pass before all the stamps of the late King had been replaced, the last being the 2/6d and 5/- values on 23rd September 1955.



By coincidence, a Queen reigned when Perfins were first sanctioned in 1868, and a Queen now reigns at their demise some 135 years later. Throughout that time approaching 25,000 different perfin patterns are known to have been used on the postage stamps of Great Britain. Derek Ransom's study of perfins on the 'modern' issues with elliptical cuts shows that perhaps as few as 25 are still in commercial use in the U.K.

To celebrate Queen Elizabeth's Golden Jubilee from the Perfin point of view, I've analysed all the material and information I have to hand and recorded all the perfins known on the G.B. postage stamps of Queen Elizabeth II. The global table at the end of this article has been based on some 23,000 different perfin patterns, but as new dies are added and old dies deleted or consolidated, the eventual total is expected to reach the figure of 25,000 mentioned above.

Fifty years is a long time and many changes have taken place since the introduction of the first Wildings late in 1952. For example, the experiments with graphite lines, the introduction of phosphor bands, regionals, commemoratives, Machins, decimalization, elliptical cuts - all fascinating areas for collecting and studying perfins.

In summary, some 2,119 different perfin dies are listed on the G.B. postage stamps of Queen Elizabeth II. Not surprisingly, 87% of which have known or suspected users. The great majority of these dies appear on the many 'Wilding' issues (1,729 - 82%), but a healthy number (974 - 46%) can be found on 'Machins'. The Machins have been further subdivided to show totals for the short lived sterling (£sd) issues (665 - 31%) and the longer lived decimal (£p) issues (738 -35%).

There follows *brief* details of half a dozen 'groups' of stamps, some of which have been listed in the past, but their totals have now been brought up to date. *The details of the actual perfin dies involved along with illustrations will be formally published in due course.*

Prior to the reign of Queen Elizabeth, commemorative issues were few and far between, but since 1960 there has been such an explosion that commemorative issues now greatly outnumber definitive issues. Only the first three Elizabethan commemorative issues have been listed, starting appropriately with the Coronation issue.

Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II - issued 3rd June 1953.

65 different perfin dies recorded.



2½d	48	(415,034,000)
4d	17	(19,816,000)
1/3d	7	(8,012,000)
1/6d	3	(5,987,200)

Figures in brackets are quantities sold.

World Scout Jubilee Jamboree - issued 1st August 1957.

26 different perfin dies recorded.



2½d	17	(137,235,286)
4d	6	(9,318,477)
1/3d	6	(3,820,478)

Complete set noted on "K.B/B" (K0110.01M)..

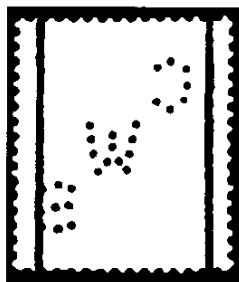
46th Inter Parliamentary Union Conference - 12th September 1957.



32 different perfin dies
recorded on perhaps as
few as 75 examples.

Quantity sold - 10,472,160

Graphite issues - Issued on various dates in 1957, 1958 and 1959.



46 different dies on 82 DDF.

St Edward's Crown	21
Multiple Crowns	36
Phosphor-graphite	1

Regional issues - Issued on various dates from 18th August 1958.



73 different dies on 302 DDF.

Guernsey	...	1
Isle of Man	...	1
Jersey	...	2
Northern Ireland	..	14
Scotland	...	42
Wales & Mon.	...	30

Elliptical cut issues - Various dates from 19th November 1991.



Commercial dies	85
Private dies	9
Commemoratives	2

Still in use 25 approx.

'Elliptical cut' figures are based on Derek Ransom's 'modern' list.
Note: This 'Elizabethan study' and associated table is intended as
a 'living' document and is updated continuously.

Summary table of Dies found on the Postage Stamps of Queen Elizabeth II.

Correct to: 22nd February 2003.

	Dies	E2R	Idents	"U"	U _{hv}	46 th	Graph	"V"	V _{hv}	"W"	W _{hv}	Mach	2-H	Ellip	"X"	"Y"	"Z"
A	1,103	84	72	70	11	2	3	23	0	20	1	31	1	1	10	4	0
B	1,939	172	156	143	12	3	5	59	0	63	4	81	2	5	26	7	3
C	1,966	167	149	140	22	6	7	51	1	57	2	75	8	16	22	7	2
D	902	87	73	77	8	2	2	27	4	26	1	37	2	5	15	2	0
E	889	89	82	70	5	1	1	30	1	33	2	45	2	2	13	2	0
F	824	59	47	48	4	1	2	19	0	17	0	25	0	0	6	1	0
G	1,014	58	45	48	4	2	0	20	0	15	0	24	0	3	4	9	2
H	1,553	113	99	101	11	2	1	35	0	36	3	46	6	8	15	1	2
I	354	36	30	25	3	0	0	13	3	16	3	20	0	0	3	0	0
J	1,713	97	85	81	14	1	2	23	1	25	5	35	1	1	17	4	2
K	340	45	41	36	5	2	1	20	0	17	0	24	2	4	11	1	0
L	1,206	142	118	110	20	2	3	44	4	57	11	74	10	12	23	2	0
M	1,087	67	65	54	2	1	2	11	1	21	0	28	4	4	7	1	0
N	590	96	83	68	12	1	2	36	1	45	8	59	6	6	17	1	1
O	305	39	30	35	5	0	0	15	0	13	2	18	1	0	2	1	0
P	1,015	106	101	91	17	0	3	37	2	44	3	52	6	2	19	3	1
Q	48	4	3	3	0	0	0	2	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
R	1,086	125	106	94	15	1	1	32	1	46	3	59	6	5	18	6	0
S	1,757	200	163	149	34	3	3	69	4	75	13	103	6	11	25	6	2
T	892	89	81	81	10	1	1	28	0	29	2	37	5	4	19	1	0
U	216	32	26	25	5	0	0	10	0	11	1	13	1	1	3	1	0
V	181	11	10	9	1	0	0	2	0	5	0	5	0	0	0	0	0
W	1,728	161	134	141	18	1	6	51	5	52	8	65	2	3	26	3	0
X	23	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Y	97	11	11	7	2	0	0	3	0	3	0	5	0	0	0	1	0
Z	18	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Des	86	9	7	5	1	0	1	2	0	4	0	5	0	2	2	0	0
Nos	68	16	13	15	0	0	0	3	0	4	0	4	0	1	1	1	0
Totals	23,000	2,119	1,834	1,729	241	32	46	665	28	738	72	974	71	96	304	65	15
Predicted	25,000	2,303	1,993	1,879				723		802		1,059					

'Idents' – Identified, 'U' – Wildings, 'V' – £sd Machins, 'W' – £p Machins, 'hv' – High values, '46th' – 46th Inter Parliamentary Union Conference
 'Graph' – Graphites and Phosphor-graphites, '2-H' – 150th Anniversary of 1d Black, 'Ellip' – Elliptical-cut Machins
 'X' – QEII Commemoratives (Wilding & Machins), 'Y' – Wilding Regionals, 'Z' – Machin Regionals, 'E2R' – All Elizabethan issues.